(d) if so, names of items to be received by India in return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan during his visit to India in July, 1996 had expressed his desire to source 20 to 30 thousand tonnes of wheat and approximately 40,000 tonnes of flour from India. He had proposed that this deal could be done on the basis of swap in return for cotton or some other items from Turkmenistan.

From Indian side State Trading Corporation has been appointed as the nodal agency for the proposed swap deal. Request has been made to the Turkmenistan Authorities to nominate a nodal agency so that relevant details can be negotiated. The response of the Turkmenistan side is awaited.

Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme for Organising Rural Workers

2108. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the duties and the functions of the Rural Organizers appointed under the Centrally sponsored plan scheme for organising rural workers;

(b) the amount granted to different States, State-wise so far;

(c) whether any amount is contributed by the State Government under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Question pertains to an erstwhile scheme which was started in August, 1981 and at the end of VIIth Plan was dovetailed to another Plan Scheme viz., Organising the Beneficiaries of the Anti-Poverty Programme administered by the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment).

The functions of Honorary Rural Organisers under the said scheme were to educate workers on their rights and duties, stress the value of organisation and to help them organise themselves into cooperatives, trade unions etc.

Details or funds released to the State Governments upto 31.3.1996 are given below:—

Name of State/U.Ts.	Amount (in Rupees)
Tamil Nadu	7,43,609.00
Gujarat	19,62,009.00
Orissa	11,98,301.00
Haryana	15,496.00
Andhra Pradesh	4,35,285.00
Pondicherry	99,354.00
Assam	7,77,368.00
Karnataka	12,47,477.00
Uttar Pradesh	4,46,651.00
Maharashtra	6,12,190.00
Rajasthan	11,63,951.00
Bihar	4,04,150.00
Madhya Pradesh	15,93,995.00
TOTAL:	1,06,99,836.00

The scheme was funded on 100% basis by the Central Government. Each organiser appointed under the scheme was paid an honorarium of Rs. 200/- per month and fixed conveyance allowance of Rs. 50/- per month.

VRS in Export Inspection Agency, Cochin

2109. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VRS has been introduced in Export Inspection Agency, Cochin;

(b) if so, the number of employees accepted VRS;

(c) whether it is a fact that an officer who had accepted VRS has been re-employed by EIA;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is a fact that it created resentment among employees due to special treatment like double payment to a single employee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Export Inspection Council has reported that 147 employees of EIA Cochin accepted VRS and that no officer who had accepted VRS, has been re-employed by EIA Cochin. 16 employees were, however, retained on consultancy basis for varying periods.

(d) and (e) Dose not arise.

Growth rate of industrial production

2110. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an analysis of Indian industrial production for the last 15 years shows that annual average growth rate in post-reform period (1991-92 to 1995-96) at 6% was way below the 8.4% achieved in the five years immediately preceedings reforms (1986-87 to 1990-91) as reported in Economic Times dated Ist August, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the above figure is also lower than annual growth rate of industrial production of 7.8% in the Eighties (1981-82 to 1990-91);

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) the industrial production in 1991-92, 1992-93, 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(e) to what extent it is expected in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The overall industrial growth during 1991—93 was constrained because the balance of payment crisis of 1991 necessitated an import squeeze and the tight monetary policy pursued to contain inflation affected both availability and cost of funds. Industrial growth recovered in subsequent years and recorded annual growth rate of 9.2 per cent during 1993—96.

(d) According to the index of industrial production, the industrial production in 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 has recorded in average annual growth of 0.6%, 2.3%, 6.0%, 9.4% and 12.0% respectively.

(e) The specific target for the year 1996-97 has not been fixed. However, the overall growth rates are expected to be maintained.

Welfare Scheme for Weaker Section in Uttar Pradesh

2111. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of running welfare schemes with regard to welfare of weaker section persons living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to make the scheme speedy and to cover the all weaker sections by the year 1996-97, 1997-98 so far; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALAWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Role of Trade Unions in the Disinvestment Process

2112. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade unions have not been given an active role in the entire disinvestment process of the Public Sector Undertakings;